

MEMORANDUM

COSHAC

Agenda Item No. **2 (A)**

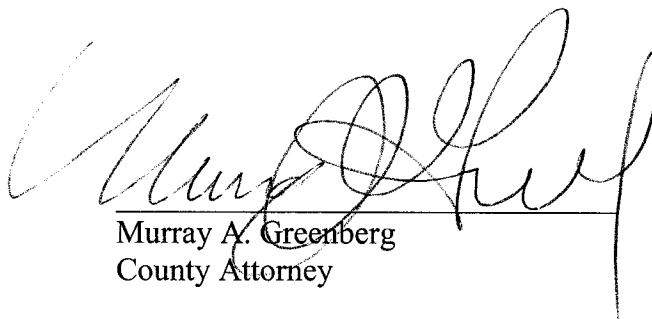
TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: December 14, 2005

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution directing County
Manager to develop a
Domestic Violence Plan for
children

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioner Rebeca Sosa.



Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

MAG/bw



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: January 24, 2006

FROM: Murray A. Greenberg
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.

Please note any items checked.

- _____ "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- _____ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- _____ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- _____ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- _____ Budget required
- _____ Statement of fiscal impact required
- _____ Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- _____ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- _____ Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- _____ No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No.
1-24-06

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO
DEVELOP A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PLAN FOR CHILDREN
THAT ASSISTS CHILDREN IMPACTED BY DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE AND RAISES AWARENESS ABOUT THE
AFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a destructive and far-reaching social problem that impacts every segment of the community, particularly children; and

WHEREAS, children do not have to be physically or verbally abused to be hurt by domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, children who witness or are exposed to domestic violence are at greater risk of physical assault and behavioral, social, emotional, and cognitive problems which can create a cycle of violence that spans generations; and

WHEREAS, children impacted by domestic violence experience higher levels of aggression, anxiety, and depression; and also suffer from low self-esteem, poor school performance, and limited problem solving skills; and

WHEREAS, many children who witness domestic violence or are exposed to domestic violence go undetected because domestic violence remains a well-guarded family secret in many households; and

WHEREAS, this Board seeks to create and implement a Domestic Violence Plan for Children that increases public awareness of domestic violence and the negative impact that it has on children and provides increased services to children affected; and

WHEREAS, this Board also desires to collaborate with the Miami-Dade County School System and the Miami-Dade County Children's Trust ("Children's Trust") to educate children about domestic violence and anger management,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The County Manager is directed to develop a Domestic Violence Plan for Children that will assist children impacted by domestic violence, raise awareness about the affects of domestic violence on children and educate children about domestic violence.

Section 2. The Plan shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following items in the development of the Domestic Violence Plan for Children:

(a) Creation of an alliance consisting of children's advocates and representatives from various entities to make recommendations to the County Manager regarding the development of a Domestic Violence Plan for Children. The advocates and representatives may be selected from the following entities: the State Attorney's Office of the 11th Judicial Circuit, the Miami-Dade County Police Department and Department of Human Services, the Miami-Dade County School Board, the Domestic Violence Oversight Board, Safe Space Foundation, Victim Response, Inc./The Lodge and Aspira of Florida, Inc.

(b) Development of age appropriate programs by the Department of Human Services and the Children's Trust to educate children about domestic violence and anger management including, but not limited to, skits, puppet shows, panel discussions, workshops and teen dating sessions.

(c) Creation of a partnership between the Department of Human Services, the Miami-Dade County School Board and the Children's Trust to incorporate said domestic

violence programs into the school curriculum and provide increased student counseling and teacher training.

(d) Development of a community-wide public awareness media campaign about the impact of domestic violence on children and available resources. The campaign shall include, without limitation, public service announcements in the print media and on Miami-Dade TV; advertisements and announcements in County facilities, on County property and on the County website; and modification of the Department of Human Services website to include specific information on the impact of domestic violence on children and available services.

(e) The provision of additional services for children residing at County shelters and housing facilities including, but not limited to, additional individual and group therapeutic counseling services and the establishment of a funded budget for emergency, educational and recreational needs of children who are residing at County shelters or facilities.

(f) Designation of social workers or child advocates to assess the needs of children immediately after a homicide involving domestic violence.

(g) Development of a Miami-Dade Police Department protocol for responding to homicides involving domestic violence when children are on the crime scene including, but not limited to, notifying social workers or child advocates with experience in the area of domestic violence to assist the victim and his or her children and documenting details about any children present.

Section 3. Within 90 days of the effective date of this Resolution, the County Manager shall submit a written report to the Community Outreach, Safety & Health Administration Committee detailing Miami-Dade County's Domestic Violence Plan for Children

and implementation schedule. Following Committee consideration and acceptance of the Plan, the Plan shall be submitted to the Board for approval.

The foregoing resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Joe A. Martinez, Chairman | |
| Dennis C. Moss, Vice-Chairman | |
| Bruno A. Barreiro | Dr. Barbara Carey-Shuler |
| Jose "Pepe" Diaz | Carlos A. Gimenez |
| Sally A. Heyman | Barbara J. Jordan |
| Dorrian D. Rolle | Natacha Seijas |
| Katy Sorenson | Rebeca Sosa |
| Sen. Javier D. Souto | |

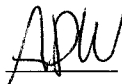
The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 24th day of January, 2006. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Abigail Price-Williams